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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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AUTHORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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APA MR TOEES EXEMPTIONS
INQUEST
O 141415Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8459
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 4281
E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CDES; CGEN, GY (PEOPLE'S TEMPLE)
SUBJ: CORONER'S INQUEST INTO JONESTOWN MASS DEATHS
REF: STATE 313641
1. CORONER'S INQUEST INTO THE JONESTOWN DEATHS OF "REVEREND JIM WARREN JONES, ET AL" BEGAN YESTERDAY (DEC 13) AT 10:00 A.M. BEFORE MAJISTRATE HAROON BACCUS AND FIVE JURORS. INQUEST IS BEING CONDUCTED BY EMMANUEL RAMAO, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS.
2. THREE WITNESSES GAVE TESTIMONY AT THE HEARING. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CECIL "SKIP" ROBERTS RECOUNTED HOW HE AND HIS MEN DISCOVERED PASSPORTS, TAPES, PERSONAL LETTERS, CASH, ETC. AT JONESTOWN ON NOV 20. ROBERTS TENDERED TO THE COURT THIS LISTS OF IDENTIFIED DEAD PROVIDED TO DATE BY DOVER AFB AND PASSED ON TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG) BY THE EMBASSY. DR. CYRIL MOOTOO, GOG PATHOLOGIST, TESTIFIED THAT BEGINNING ON NOV 20 HE CONDUCTED TOXICOLOGICAL STUDIES WITHOUT VIVE-SECTION ON THIRTY-NINE BODIES IDENTIFIED BY ODELL RHODES, AND ON TWENTY-FIVE BODIES, CHOSEN AT RANDOM, FROM THOSE THAT HAD NOT THEN BEEN IDENTIFIED. RESULTS SHOWED THAT ALL SIXTY-FOUR HAD DIED OF "ACUTE CYANIDE POISONING." ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY OF BOTH ROBERTS AND MOOTOO, THEY SAW ONLY
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TWO BODIES AT JONESTOWN WITH EVIDENCE OF "EXTERNAL WOUNDS," THOSE OF REV. JIM JONES AND ANN ELIZBETH MOORE. MOOTOO STATED THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS EXAMINATION, WHICH INCLUDED A POST-MORTEM VIVESECTION, JONES DIED AS THE RESULT OF A HEAD WOUND CAUSED BY THE "NEAR DISCHARGE" OF A .38 CALIBER HANDGUN. THE WOUND, HE CONTINUED, WAS LOCATED IN ONE OF THE "SUICIDE AREAS" FOR A RIGHT-HANDED PERSON. HOWEVER, MOOTOO SAID HE COULD NOT TELL FROM HIS EXAMINATION WHETHER THE WOUND WAS SELF-INFLICTED. MOOTOO ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF POISON IN JONES' BODY. MOOTOO TESTIFIED THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS EXAMINATION, WHICH INCLUDED A PARTIAL VIVESECTION, ANNIE MOORE WAS MURDERED BY MEANS OF A HIGH VELOCITY RIFLE. AS IN THE CASE OF REV. JONES, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF POISON IN MOORE'S BODY. THE THIRD WITNESS, A POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER, TESTIFIED CONCERNING PICTURES HE TOOK OF JONESTOWN ON NOV 22.
3. RAMAO TOLD EMBOFF ON DEC 13 THAT TESTIMONY OF CONOFF
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(REFTEL) WILL NOT BE NEEDED AT THE INQUEST.
4. HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO RESUME TODAY (DEC 14). BOTH
RAMAO BACCHUS HOPE TO END THE INQUEST TODAY.
BURKE
NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT.
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